Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 05195 251622Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HEW-04 MCT-01 HA-05
AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 CA-01
A-01 SCS-06 OMB-01 SY-05 PC-01 /115 W
----------050087 251635Z /64
P 251453Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8115
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL KADUNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5195

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NI
SUBJECT: STUDENTS, WORKERS AND RUMORS

REF: (A) KADUNA 515, (B) KADUNA 513, (C) LAGOS 5130,
(D) LAGOS 5066

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THERE WERE DEMONSTRATIONS IN IBADAN AND BENIN YESTERDAY, THE LAGOS SCENE WAS AGAIN MARKED MOSTLY BY RHETORIC. THE RUMOR MILL APPEARS MORE ACTIVE IN THE NORTH, AS REFLECTED IN KADUNA'S REFTELS, THAN IN THE LAGOS AREA. A SENIOR MINISTRY OF LABOR OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF TTAT HE HAD 'NIPPED IN THE BUD' AN EFFORT TO STAGE A GENERAL STRIKE. THE KADUNA RUMORS'S THAT YAR'ADUA WAS UNDER HOUSE ARREST HAVE PROVED FALSE, AS REPORTED REF A, AND WE HAVE NOT HEARD SIMILAR RUMORS IN LAGOS. ALTHOUGH REVIEW OF SITUATION WOULD SUGGEST AIR OF UNEASE, THERE HAS BEEN NO OBVIOUS INCREASE IN SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN LAGOS. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 05195 251622Z

2. STUDENT PROBLEM CONTINUES TO BE MAINLY A WAR OF WORDS BUT THERE WERE SOME DEMONSTRATIONS ON MONDAY APRIL 25. SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN IBADAN APPARENTLY BOYCOTTED CLASSES AND MARCHED THROUGH TOWN PROTESTING THE INCREASE IN SCHOOL FEES. ACCORDING TO SKETCH AND TRIOUNE THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE INCIDENT WHERE POLICE FIRED TEARGAS

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

TO DISPERSE 'THE ORDERLY STUDENTS' AND SOME
STUDENTS WERE ALSO ARRESTED. TRIBUNE REPORTED
THAT IN ANOTHER INCIDENT POLICE ATTEMPTED TO
ARREST STUDENTS BUT WERE STOPPED BY
ONLOOKERS WHO VOLUNTEERED TO GO WITH POLICE IN PLACE
OF THE 'INNOCENT' STUDENTS. THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS
THAT STUDENTS AT TTE UNIVERSITY OF BENIN BURIED MOCK COFFINS
IN HONOR OF STUDENTS KILLED EARLIER. REPORTS HAVE ALSO APPEARED
THAT BAYERO UNIVERSITY IN KANO AND THE UNIVERSITIES
IN MAIDUGURIA AND NSUKKA HAD BEEN CLOSED.

3. THE LAOS SCENE CONTINUES TO BE MARKED WITH
RHETORIC. NATIONAL UNION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS
(NUNS) PRESIDENT SEGUN OKEOWO FILED TWO COURT
SUITS YESTERDAY. ONE SUIT SEEKS AN INJUNCTION
AGAINST THE INCREASE IN BOARD AND LODGING FEE,
INCLUDING A DECISION THAT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITITES
COMMISSION (NUC) WAS NOT COMPETENT TO INCREASE
THE FEES. THE OTHER SUIT SEEKS TO OVERTURN THE
BANNING OF NUNS AS ILLEGAL AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

4. COL. AHAMDU ALI, COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION,
DEFENDED HIS POSITION YESTERDAY SAYING THAT HE
HAD ESTABLISHED A DIALOGUE WITH NUNS IN ADVANCE
TO DISCUSS THE INCREASED FEES. HE NOTED A FIVE
HOUR MEETING HE HAD HELD EARLIER THIS YEAR WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 05195 251622Z

NUNS LEADERSHIP IN MAIDUGURI AND THAT IN MARCH
YAR'ADUA HAD ALSO MET FOR THREE AND ON-HALF
HOURS WITH NUNS LEADERS TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM.
HE CONCLUDED, "IN SPITE OF ALL THE DIALOGUE THE
NUNS LEADERSHIP WAS...BENT ON CONFRONTATION...I
WARNED THEM TO DESIST FROM THAT PATH, SINCE THEY
WILL BE THE LOSER."

5. THE CABINET OFFICE ALSO SENT A LETTER TO
OKEOWO, ASKING HIM TO WITHDRAW FROM FURTHER
PARTICIPATION INTHE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SINCE
THE ORGANIZATION WHICH HE REPRESENTS HAS BEEN
BANNED.

6. THE RUMOR MILL APPEARS TO BE WORKING OVERTIME,
AS RELECTED IN KADUNA'S REFTELS. PARENTS IN
ILORIN YESTERDAY REPORTEDLY BESIEGED THE SCHOOLS
TO TAKE THEIR CHILDREN OUT BECAUSE OF A RUMOR
THAT POLICE AND SOLDIERS WERE CONFRONTING STUDENTS
IN SOME SCHOOLS.

7. REFLECTING THE GERNEAL PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

IN EMBASSY'S REF D, BOTH THE DAILY TIMES AND THE
NEW NIGERIAN PUBLISHED EDITORIALS APRIL 25 EXPRESSING
CONCERN OVER THE PROBLEM OF DISTRIBUTION OF
BASIC NECESSITIES IN NIGERIA. NEITHER PAPER
EXPRESSED MUCH OPTIMISM OVER THE ABILITY OF THE
NIGERIA NATIONAL SUPPLY COMPANY TO DEAL WITH
THE PROBLEMS OF THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

8. SENIOR MINISTRY OF LABOR OFFICIAL ALSO TOLD
EMBOFF THAT ON MONDAY HE HAD "NIPPED IN THE BUD"
EFFORTS TO STAGE A GEMNRAL STRIKE OVER ISSUE
OF INCREASED SCHOOL FEES. HE SAID CONTACTS WITH
TRADE UNION LEADERS REFLECTED A CONCERN OVER
MANY ECONOMIC MEASURES WHICH AFFECTED THE COMMON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LAGOS 05195 251622Z

MAN AND THAT THE SCHOOL FEES ISSUE HAD BEEN THE
LAST STRAW FOR MANY. IN A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF
THE CURRENT SITUATION HE SAID HE FELT THAT IF A
GENERAL STRIKE COULD BE AVOIDED THE SITUATION
WOULD REMAIN UNDER CONTROL.

9. IN TWO SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND
THE DEFENSE ATTACHE WAS TOLD THAT SOUTHERNERS,
ESPECIALLY YORUBAS, WERE LEAVING THE SOKOTO AREA
BECAUSE OF INCREASED FEARS DUE TO SHARIA CONTROVERSY.

10. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH REVIEW OF CURRENT SITUA-
TION SUGGESTS GENERAL AIR OF UNEASE AND RUMORS,
THERE HAS BEEN NO OBVIOUS INCREASEIN SECURITY
PRECAUTIONS IN LAGOS. CONVERSATION WITH MINISTRY
OF LABOR OFFICIAL WHO HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH
DODAN BARRACKS YESTERDAY SUGGESTS THAT GOVERNMENT
IS DEALING WITH ISSUES ON A PIECEMENAL BASIS.
AS REPORTED BY KADUNA'S REF A, RUMOR THAT
YAR'ADUA WAS UNDER HOUSE ARREST IS FALSE BASED
ON PUBLIC APPEARANCES IN IBADAN YESTERDAY REPORTED
BOTH ON TELEVISION AND IN THE PRESS. WE HAVE HEARD
NO RUMORS OF ARMS SMUGGLING OR A "GOWON
CONNECTION."
WYMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, SUPPLIES, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS05195
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780176-0903
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780421/aaaaaqvg.tel
Line Count: 161
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 600d49a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KADUNA 515, 78 KADUNA 513, 78 LAGOS 5130, 78 LAGOS 5066
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2861405
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENTS, WORKERS AND RUMORS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SEDU, NI, (OKEOWO, SEGUN), (ALI, AHAMDU), (YAR\'ADUA, SM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/600d49a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014